

Message Text

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21

ACTION EA-14

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P R 011142Z MAY 74

FM AMEMBASSY BANGKOK

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 2886

AMEMBASSY PHNOM PENH

AMEMBASSY SAIGON

AMEMBASSY VIENTIANE

CINCPAC

DIA

UNCLAS BANGKOK 7091

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, TH, US

SUBJ: THAI-AMERICAN RELATIONS

CINCPAC FOR POLAD

FOREIGN MINISTER CHARUNPHAN ITSARANGKUN NA AYUTTHAYA
HELD A NEWS CONFERENCE APRIL 29. FOLLOWING ARE EXTRACTS
FROM AN UNOFFICIAL USIS TRANSLATION OF HIS COMMENTS ON
THAI-AMERICAN RELATIONS.

REPORTER: WHAT SUBJECTS DID THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR
DISCUSS WHEN HE MET YOU LAST FRIDAY?

CHARUNPHAN: THE AMERICAN AMBASSADOR CAME TO SEE
ME ABOUT THREE DAYS AGO AND HE INFORMED ME HE WILL BE
RETURNING TO THE UNITED STATES SOON, THEREFORE HE WISHED
TO EXCHANGE VIEWS ON THE SITUATION IN NEIGHBORING COUNTRIES
IN ORDER TO INCLUDE THEM IN HIS REPORT.

REPORTER: WHAT WAS HIS ATTITUDE REGARDING THE
PRESENCE OF AMERICAN FORCES IN THAILAND?

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CHARUNPHAN: ...STATEMENTS I HAVE MADE ALREADY

CONCERNING AMERICAN FORCES, OR THEIR WITHDRAWAL AND SO FORTH, OR MEASURES TAKEN IN REGARD TO MILITARY UNITS STATIONED HERE, STATEMENTS IN WHICH I SAID THAT THE UNITED STATES SHOULD INFORM US AND IT IS MY DUTY TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE GOVERNMENT OR THE CABINET, SHOULD BE SUFFICIENT AND SATISFACTORY AND THEY COORDINATE WITH STATEMENTS HE HAS MADE. I UNDERSTAND THAT THE AMERICAN EMBASSY WROTE A LETTER CORRECTING A NEWS REPORT IN WHICH IT WAS ASSERTED THAT IN REGARD TO THE REPORT ON B-1S THEY HAVE NOT BEEN PRODUCED YET, THAT THIS PLANE IS STILL IN THE TESTING STAGE, SO HOW CAN THEY BE BROUGHT HERE. THAT IS ONE POINT, AND ANOTHER POINT IN THAT LETTER STATED THAT BEFORE TAKING ANY ACTION THE UNITED STATES MUST CONSULT OR HOLD TALKS WITH US FIRST. THIS CONFIRMED THE STATEMENTS I HAVE MADE.

REPORTER: BUT A MAGAZINE ON AIRCRAFT PUBLISHED A PICTURE OF A PLANE THAT HAS BEEN CONSTRUCTED ALREADY.

PRACHA: ONE ONLY.

CHARUNPHAN: AND IT IS STILL IN THE TESTING STAGE. DO YOU EXPECT A PLANE THAT IS BEING TESTED TO BE BROUGHT HERE? (LAUGHS).

REPORTER: IT WAS NOT MERE SPECULATION.

CHARUNPHAN: THE LETTER SENT ALSO DENIED THE ALLEGATION THAT OLD, OUTMODED PLANES ARE BEING REMOVED, THAT ONE AIRCRAFT...

PRACHA: THE A-7D.

CHARUNPHAN: THE AIRCRAFT WHICH HAVE BEEN WITHDRAWN ARE AMONG THE MOST MODERN AND TESTING WAS COMPLETED ONLY IN 1970.

REPORTER: REGARDING AGREEMENT ON REDUCTION OF FORCES, WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO CONSIDER THE MATTER. WHEN THE UNITED STATES DECIDES IT WILL WITHDRAW FORCES IT INFORMS US AND THAT IS ALL.

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CHARUNPHAN: CONSULTATIONS ARE HELD. OUR REPRESENTATIVES WHO TAKE PART IN THE CONSULTATIONS ARE OFFICIALS OF THE MINISTRY OF DEFENSE AND OF THE MINISTRY OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS. REPRESENTATIVES OF THE UNITED STATES ARE OFFICIALS OF THE AMERICAN EMBASSY AND AMERICAN MILITARY OFFICIALS.

REPORTER: BUT WE HAVE NO RIGHT TO DETERMINE FROM WHAT

POINT WITHDRAWALS SHALL BE MADE AND IN WHAT NUMBER.

CHARUNPHAN: OUR DEPUTY FOREIGN MINISTER HAS MET AND HELD TALKS ON THIS SUBJECT WITH MR. KISSINGER.

IT DEPENDS ON WHETHER THAILAND APPROVES THE PROPOSED WITHDRAWALS OR NOT, NOT ON THE UNITED STATES MAKING DECISIONS THEN ANNOUNCING "I AM CARRYING OUT THESE WITHDRAWALS."

REPORTER: DOES THAT MEAN WE DO NOT WANT THEM TO BE WITHDRAWN YET?

CHARUNPHAN: OUR VIEW IS THAT WITHDRAWALS SHOULD BE CARRIED OUT BY GRADUAL STAGES, DEPENDING ON THE SITUATION. OUR OBJECTIVE IS FOR THEM TO BE COMPLETELY WITHDRAWN, AS I HAVE SAID BEFORE, BUT THERE ARE STILL CERTAIN ELEMENTS THAT MAKE IT NECESSARY FOR WITHDRAWALS TO BE CARRIED OUT BY GRADUAL STAGES. FOR INSTANCE, THE OBJECTIVE FOR THEIR PRESENCE HERE IS IN ORDER TO SEE WHETHER THE OTHER SIDE WILL CONFORM TO AND KEEP PLEDGES MADE IN THE CEASEFIRE AGREEMENT. THIS CONCERNS THE SECURITY AND SAFETY OF THAILAND ALSO, THEREFORE WE HAVE TO HOLD CONSULTATIONS.

REPORTER: A FEW DAYS AGO AMBASSADOR ANAN MADE A STATEMENT IN AMERICA ON THAILAND'S ATTITUDE...

CHARUNPHAN: WAIT A MINUTE. I WISH TO ADD A FEW WORDS. I WOULD LIKE TO REMIND YOU THAT I HAVE ALREADY SAID THAT THAILAND AND THE UNITED STATES ARE OLD FRIENDS AND THAT THEY ARE STILL FRIENDS, THEREFORE THERE MUST BE INTERDEPENDENCE AND RECIPROCITY. IN ANY ACTION WE TAKE WE MUST NOT INDULGE IN A VOLTEFACE AS WE PLEASE. WE MUST STUDY THE SITUATION IN GENERAL, AS WELL AS OUR IN-
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TERESTS, AND THE FRIENDSHIP THAT EXISTS BETWEEN US. WE HAVE SAID ALREADY THAT WE WILL TRY TO AVOID MILITARY EMPHASIS, THAT WE WILL STRESS ECONOMY. THEREFORE, ALL THESE FACTORS MUST BE TAKEN INTO CONSIDERATION JOINTLY.

SHOULD WE TALK OF THE WITHDRAWAL OF AIRCRAFT OR THE WITHDRAWAL OF FORCES ONLY, IT MIGHT BE REGARDED FROM THE ANGLE OF THE VIEW YOU HAVE EXPRESSED, BUT IF CONSIDERED FROM THE ANGLE OF THE TIES OR RELATIONS THAT EXIST BETWEEN OUR TWO COUNTRIES, I HAVE NEVER AT ANY TIME SAID THAT I WILL TURN MY BACK ON THE UNITED STATES.
MASTERS

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